



Island of Hawaii YMCA Youth Sailing Program

Fundraising & Sponsorship Campaign 2026 and 2027

The YMCA Youth Sailing and Aquatics Program invites you to become a valued partner in empowering young people through transformative experiences on the water. Based in Kawaihae, this program combines sailing, wayfaring, and other aquatic activities to teach essential skills, foster cultural appreciation, and promote environmental stewardship. Your sponsorship will support youth development, preserve local marine ecosystems, and honor the rich wayfaring heritage of Kawaihae, a historic coastal community on Hawaii 'i Island.

Kawaihae is deeply rooted in Polynesian voyaging traditions, where wayfaring—the art of navigating vast oceans using stars, winds, and currents—has shaped cultural identity for centuries. As a key harbor in ancient Hawaiian trade and exploration, Kawaihae remains a living testament to the ingenuity and resilience of Native Hawaiian navigators. The YMCA Youth Sailing and Aquatics Program draws on this legacy, teaching youth to connect with the ocean through traditional and modern aquatic skills while fostering respect for the 'Aina (land) and kai (sea).

Marine preservation is central to our mission. Near-shore activities like sailing, swimming, and kayaking depend on healthy coral reefs, clean waters, and thriving marine life. By supporting this program, sponsors contribute to educational initiatives that promote sustainable practices, such as reducing coastal pollution and protecting marine habitats, ensuring that Kawaihae's waters remain vibrant for future generations.

Your sponsorship will provide scholarships, maintain equipment, and enhance program facilities while offering meaningful visibility for your brand, organization, or personal name. Together, we can inspire the next generation of wayfarers and stewards of the sea.

YMCA Youth Aquatics Program, Kawaihae South Harbor, Island of Hawaii

Campaign Goal: Raise \$50,000 by **December 31, 2026**, to acquire 8 RS Zest sailing dinghies, modernizing our fleet and enhancing our youth sailing program and ensuring long-term program growth. **Total Campaign Goal \$50,000**

As a registered 501(c)(3) public charity, a donation to Island of Hawaii YMCA is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law."

Why Support Our Campaign?

Our current fleet of beginner and intermediate sailing dinghies is over 30 years old, limiting our ability to provide safe, engaging, and modern sailing experiences. By acquiring eight new RS Zests we will:

- **Elevate the Program:** Provide state-of-the-art, durable, and safe boats for young sailors.
- **Expand Access:** Increase capacity to serve more youth, fostering teamwork, confidence, and leadership.
- **Replace Aging Equipment:** Retire outdated dinghies to ensure safety and program sustainability.
- **Strengthen Community:** Engage families and local businesses through a revitalized sailing program.

Each RS Zest costs approximately \$6,250 (including shipping and setup). Your sponsorship will directly fund this transformative upgrade.

Sponsorship Opportunities

1. Boat Naming Opportunities

Secure the initial naming rights for one of our 8 boats (4 RS Zests in 2025 and 4 RS Zests, in spring of 2026). Your chosen name will be prominently displayed on the **port and starboard sides** of the boat. Naming does not confer ownership, which remains with the YMCA.

- **Total Opportunities:** 8 boats
- **Cost:**
 - **Initial Naming Fee:** \$6,250 per boat (directly supports acquisition costs)
- **Benefits:**
 - Prominent name placement on the boat for the duration of the sponsorship
 - Recognition on YMCA website, social media, and event banners
 - Acknowledgment at the End-of-Year Celebration at the Mauna Kea Beach Resort

2. Logo Placement on Sails or Bow

Gain visibility by placing your logo on the **jib** or **bow** of a boat for a sailing season (September 1st to August 31st).

- **Cost:** \$2,000 per boat per season
- **Benefits:**
 - Logo displayed during all sailing activities, regattas, and community events.
 - Recognition on YMCA website and social media
 - Acknowledgment at the End-of-Year Celebration and Regatta
 - Option to renew annually.

3. Tuition Sponsorship for Young Sailors

Support a young sailor's participation, ensuring access to our revitalized program.

- **Cost:** \$350 per sailor
- **Includes:**
 - One week of sailing camp
 - Once-a-month sailing practice throughout the season
 - 2 Rash guards
- **Benefits:**
 - Recognition on YMCA website, social media, and event banners
 - Personal thank-you letter from the sponsored sailor
 - Acknowledgment at the End-of-Year Celebration and Regatta

4. Program Sponsorship Levels

Contribute to the overall campaign with tiered sponsorship levels, offering increasing visibility.

- **Captain Level (\$2,500–\$4,999)**
 - Medium logo on event banners, rash guards, YMCA website, and social media
 - Recognition at the End-of-Year Celebration and Regatta
- **Crew Level (\$1,000–\$2,499)**
 - Small logo on event banners, YMCA website, and social media
 - Recognition at the End-of-Year Celebration and Regatta
- **Supporter Level (\$500–\$999)**
 - Name listed on YMCA website and social media
 - Recognition at the End-of-Year Celebration
- **2026 Fundraising Impact:** These levels can bridge any funding gaps and build momentum for 2027.

5. Additional Donation Opportunities

Support critical programs need to complement the fleet acquisition.

- **Storage Containers (40')**
 - Need 2 to replace current rotting containers that will protect the equipment from the elements.
 - **Junior Staffing Support:**
 - Donations of \$1,000+ funding training and stipends for junior staff to teach on the new RS Zests.
 - Benefits: Recognition on YMCA website, social media, and at events.
 - **Program Expenses:**
 - Donations of \$250+ cover safety gear, equipment, and operational costs for the expanded fleet.
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Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are critical to our campaign's success and program operations.

- **Yard Maintenance:** Maintain the sailing facility to prepare for the new RS Zests.
 - **Boat Repairs:** Assist with fleet upkeep, including preparing new boats for use.
 - **Community Events:** Support fundraising events, sail days, and open houses to promote the campaign.
 - **Monthly Sail Days:** Help coordinate practices with the new fleet.
 - **Marketing and Social Media:** Create content to highlight the campaign and attract sponsors.
 - **Benefits:** Recognition on YMCA website, at events, and invitations to program activities.
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How to Get Involved

- **Sponsorship Inquiries:** Contact **Neil Barth** or **Beau Donegan** at y.sailing@islandofhawaiiymca.org or visit IslandofhawaiiYMCA.org/programs/sailing.
- **Donations:** Contribute online at www.islandofhawaiiymca.org or mail checks to **Island of Hawaii YMCA, 300 W Lanikaula St, Hilo HI 96720**, payable to **Island of Hawaii YMCA** with “Youth Aquatics Program” in the memo.
- **Volunteer Sign-Up:** Email y.sailing@islandofhawaiiymca.org or complete the volunteer form at www.islandofhawaiiymca.org/volunteer

Impact of Your Support

- **Youth Empowerment:** Modern RS Zests will provide safe, engaging experiences for more young sailors.
 - **Community Pride:** A revitalized fleet strengthens Kawaihae Harbor as a hub for youth and marine activities.
 - **Sponsor Visibility:** Your brand will reach families, visitors, and the Big Island community
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Be a Fleet Founder! Help us transform the YMCA Youth Sailing Program by December 31, 2026. Your support will empower young sailors and ensure a legacy at Kawaihae Harbor.